United Nations A/58/91–S/2003/617

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
5 June 2003
English
Original: English and Russian

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Items 74 and 83 of the preliminary list*

General and complete disarmament

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 4 June 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the Joint Statements by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin on the new strategic relationship (see annex I) and on United States-Russian cooperation in space (see annex II), adopted in Saint Petersburg on 1 June 2003.

We would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annexes were distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under items 74 and 83 of the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) John **Negroponte**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America to the
United Nations

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to the
United Nations

* A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

03-38555 (E) 090603

Annex I to the letter dated 4 June 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin on the new strategic relationship

On 24 May 2002, we pledged to build a new strategic relationship between the United States of America and the Russian Federation. We declared our partnership, and our commitment to work together to advance stability, security and prosperity for our peoples, and to work jointly to counter global challenges and help resolve regional conflicts. We also declared that where we had differences, we would work to resolve them in a spirit of mutual respect.

We have met again to reaffirm our nations' partnership and our commitment to meet together the challenges of the twenty-first century.

With the completion of the ratification procedures by the United States Senate and the two houses of the Russian Federation Assembly, we have been able to exchange instruments of ratification for the Moscow Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions. The Treaty takes effect immediately. The deep reductions of strategic nuclear warheads that it codifies are another indication of the transformed relationship between our two countries.

We will intensify efforts to confront the global threats of terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, that threaten our peoples and freedom-loving peoples around the world.

In this regard, we declare our intention to advance concrete joint projects in the area of missile defence which will help deepen relations between the United States and Russia.

Annex II to the letter dated 4 June 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin on United States-Russian cooperation in space

The loss of the space shuttle Columbia has underscored the historic role of the United States and Russia as partners in space exploration, who have persevered despite tragedy and adversity. During this challenging time, our partnership has deepened and the International Space Station (ISS) programme remains strong. The extraordinary efforts of our countries continue. The United States is committed to safely returning the space shuttle to flight, and the Russian Federation is committed to meeting the ISS crew transport and logistics resupply requirements necessary to maintain our joint American astronaut and Russian cosmonaut teams on board the ISS until the space shuttle returns to flight.

We confirm our mutual aspiration to ensure the continued assembly and viability of the International Space Station as a world-class research facility, relying on our unprecedented experience of bilateral and multilateral interaction in space. We reaffirm our commitment to the mission of human space flight and are prepared to take energetic steps to enhance our cooperation in the application of space technology and techniques.